SHRI VED PRAKASH GOYAL: Sir, this sort of a hypothetical question, whether the Government would agree to a cost of Rs. 2,000 crores or not, cannot obviously be answered. The second part of his supplementary relates, in fact, to transhipment movement. That cannot be done through this canal. and, to have a depth of the canal, say more than 10 metres will not be adequate here. Moreover, Sir, it is a separate question; it does not relate to the main question...(*Interruptions*) The technical feasibility has never been questioned; the economic feasibility has never been questioned. It is only the environmental aspect which was questioned.

SHRI P. G. NARAYANAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is a long pending scheme and a very important one. I feel that the Government is going too slow on the scheme. Considering the importance of the scheme, can the Government come forward and complete this project at the earliest? Can the Government also fix a time frame for this and give an assurance that this project would be finished within a short time, because it is a very important scheme.

श्री सभापति: मंत्री जी के उत्तर से स्पष्ट है कि इसका कोई टाइमफ्रेम नहीं होगा। इसलिए उनकी तरफ से वही जवाब आयेगा।

Purchase of Tobacco

*265. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of tobacco purchased from tobacco farmers through Tbobacco Board since 1998-99, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether Government are aware that Tobacco Board is acting in a partisan manner with regard to purchase of tobacco from Karnataka farmers;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government of Karnataka has requested Government to purchase the tobacco on the basis of production capacity of the States; and

(d) if so, the details of the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Details of the quantity of Flue Cured Tobacco purchased by the Tobacco Board since 1998-99 are as follows:

(Quantity in million kilograms)

Year	Andhra Pradesh	Karnataka
1998-99	Nil	Nil
1999-2000	Nil	Nil
2000-01	0.03	Nil
2001-02	Nil	Nil

The quantity of FCV tobacco auctioned under the aegis of the Tobacco Board is given below:

(Quantity in million kilograms)

Year	Andhra Pradesh Quantity Auctioned	Karnataka Quantity Auctioned
1998-99	147.39	54.69
1999-2000	131.61	45.21
2000-01	3.2*	41.98
2001-02	120.04	57.68
2002-03	—	21.56 (upto 28.11.02)

* There was crop holiday in Andhra Pradesh in 2000-01.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Sir, in reply to my question, the hon. Minister has stated that since the last four years, the Tobacco Board has not purchased any tobacco from the tobacco growers. I would like to know why the Board has not purchased any tobacco, especially, when

there is excess production and the tobacco growers are finding it difficult to dispose of their products. I would like to know the reason why no tobacco has been purchased in the last four years and whether the Governments of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh have represented to the Central Government, stating that the Board should purchase the tobacco.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, the main function of the Tobacco Board is not to purchase tobacco itself, but to bring the traders and growers together and thereby facilitate marketing of their tobacco. And yes, on the second part that he was saying, the question that was originally put was, whether the Government had been asked to purchase tobacco, to which we said, 'No'. But, in regard to the Tobacco Board, Yes, whenever there has been a problem, both the Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh Governments wanted that the Tobacco Board should intervene in the market. But that has not been found feasible because the Tobacco Board has very limited resources. It is not given any grant from the Government, but it collects money only from penalties imposed on unauthorised growers; and for that reason, this scheme of directly intervening in the market has not been there. However, we are trying to facilitate marketing of it abroad.

SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Sir, my second supplementary is this. The hon. Minister has said that the Board only facilitates in marketing of tobacco by bringing the grower and the buyer together. The problem that we are facing in various States is such that unless the Board comes forward and ensures price stabilisation and also purchases the excess production from the tobacco growers, the situation cannot improve. Otherwise, what can the farmers do when there is excess production, because 60 million tonnes of tobacco.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is a separate question...

SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Sir, it is a part of this question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is not a part of the question. The question is regarding the purchase of tobacco from Karnataka. जब उन्होंने कहा है कि हम खरीद ही नहीं रहे हैं तो कर्नाटक का प्रश्न ही पैदा नहीं होता।

श्री के॰ रहमान खान: इसमें परचेज किया है that means, the activity is there. So, will the Government intervene, through the Tobacco Board; so as to help the farmers?

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: I would say that there is conflict between the farmers of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.

श्री सभापति: इनका सीधा प्रश्न यह है कि यह बोर्ड तम्बाकू खरीदेगा या नहीं।

श्री अरुण शौरी: सर, इस समय ऐसा कोई प्रपोज़ल नहीं है।

श्रीमती सरोज दुबे: सभापति महोदय, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहती हूं कि क्या सरकार के पास तम्बाकू उद्योग में लगे हुए मजदूर तथा भारत में तम्बाकू उत्पन्न करने वाले किसानों की संख्या के कोई आंकड़े उपलब्ध हैं और क्या इनके स्वास्थ्य के बारे में आप जानकारी लेते रहते हैं? इसके अतिरिक्त क्या तम्बाकू कृषकों को वित्त पोषित करने के लिए किन्ही वैकल्पिक कदमों के संबंध में कोई कार्यक्रम तैयार किया है? तम्बाकू से होने वाले घातक असर को देखते हुए जो प्रस्तावित प्रतिबंध है, क्या आपने उसके बारे में जांच पड़ताल की है?

श्री सभापति: मैडम, जो आप प्रश्न पूछ रही हैं, वह इस प्रश्न की परिधि में नहीं आता है। आप इसे अच्छी तरह से पढ़ लें।

श्रीमती सरोज दुबे: महोदय, कृषकों के बारे में है।

श्री सभापति: यह प्रश्न की परिधि में नहीं आता है।

श्रीमती सरोज दुबे: महोदय, इसके प्रतिबंध से तो नुकसान हो सकता है। इसलिए मैं जानना चाहती हूं कि ...

श्रीमती सभापति: वह भी नहीं आता है। यह प्रश्न तम्बाकू की खरीद के मामले में है। यदि इस संबंध में कोई प्रश्न आप पूछना चाहें तो पूछ लें।

श्री सरोज दुबे: सर, किसानों के हित के लिए क्या सरकार कोई निश्चित मूल्य निर्धारित कर के किसानों की फसल को खरीदती रहेगी ताकि किसानों को कोई नुकसान न हो और तम्बाकू की खेती करने वाले किसान भी अपनी फसल का मूल्य पाते रहें।

श्री सभापति: इस सवाल का जवाब वह पहले दे चुके है।

SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Sir, I would like to know whether the Government have taken steps to discourage the cultivation of tobacco in the States. What steps have been taken and what is the reaction of the people, because Karnataka also grows tobacco?

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, the hon. Member is absolutely right. In Karnataka, because of the high yield, there has been a large expansion of

the acreage under tobacco and the number of unauthorised growers has gone up very rapidly, in which the registered growers... *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: I am asking not about the State of Karnataka only, but in general.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: The number of unauthorised registered growers in Karnatka is 18,751, number of unauthorised unregistered growers is 17,500 and the number of unlicensed barns is 23,274. In Andhra Pradesh, the number of registered growers is 42,000, number of unregistered growers is 1,100, and the number of unlicensed barns is 2,119. As there is excess production and you cannot store this commodity, the real cure is to go in for alternate crops. But I would certainly work on that with the Tobacco Board and other agencies.

श्री सभापति: माननीय मंत्री महोदय, मैं निवेदन करूंगा और माननीय सदस्यों से भी निवेदन करना चाहूंगा कि प्रश्न की परिधि के बाहर सप्लीमेंटरी न करें और मिनिस्टर भी उनका जवाब न दें।

अशक्त लोगों के कल्याण हेतु योजनाएं

***††266. श्री कृपाल परमार:††**
डा॰ कुमकुम राय:

क्या **सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता मंत्री** यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान विकलांगों के कल्याण के लिए योजनाओं और आबंटित धनराशि का राज्य-वार ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ख) उपयोग में लाई गई धनराशि का योजना-वार और राज्य-वार ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) इस योजना के अंतर्गत लाभान्वित विकलांगों की राज्य-वार संख्या कितनी है;

(घ) योजना से संबंद्ध संस्थाओं की संख्या कितनी है;

(ङ) क्या उनकी संख्या में वृद्धि करने के संबंध में कोई प्रस्ताव है;

(च) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(छ) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं?

सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सत्यव्रत मुखर्जी): (क) से (छ) एक विवरण सभा पटल पर रख दिया गया है।

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†† सभा में यह प्रश्न श्री कृपाल परमार द्वारा पूछा गया।